



18 December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

RE. STAGGERED RETURN AFTER THE CHRISTMAS BREAK

I hope that this letter finds you and your family well.

The start of term

The government announced yesterday that secondary schools in England will have a staggered return to school in January to help reduce the transmission of COVID-19 after Christmas and to support testing being rolled out in schools (more information to follow when we receive further updates). Students sitting exams this academic year will return to schools in the first week of term, as well as those with key workers as parents/carers and students considered to be vulnerable. **Therefore, school will now, in an amendment to our previous communications, re-open only for students in Year 11, children of key workers and vulnerable students on 4th January 2021. All other students will learn at home remotely (as directed by the government) for this first week, returning to school on Monday 11th January 2021.**

Online learning

In order to take part in effective remote learning during this first week of term, students will need to join their form period and lessons online 'live' (at the time the lesson is being taught) via Microsoft Teams. Teachers will be teaching the lessons in school, often with some key worker or vulnerable students in the classroom with them. Accessing the lessons in this way will help your child(ren) to maintain progress and engagement in their learning and is more effective than providing independent work to complete with no teacher input or explanation. Students have also been encouraged to take their school books home to be used during their online learning (to be returned on their first day back).

Microsoft Teams

Students will need to access the Teams app on a laptop or another device such as a tablet or smartphone and they will log in to Teams using their school email address and password. They will also need internet access at home. We have attached, for your information, instructions on how to access Teams (please download the app as this is best), although many students will already have experience of this. **It is vitally important that, if your child does not have internet access or a device such as a laptop, smartphone or tablet, you inform us on the data email below, without delay. We can then make arrangements for them to borrow them a device.**





Teachers will invite your child to join their lessons online via Teams and they can join the lesson being taught in school. The only exception to this will be PE lessons. When your child is due to have PE, they should go to the PE area of the school VLE (Frog) to find an activity suggestion to complete in that hour or do some physical activity at home (an online workout, for example). We will also be asking your child's form tutor to meet with them on Teams each morning during form time.

We have attached to this email our trust online learning protocols for guidance, which we would ask that you read and observe. The expectation is that students behave in an appropriate and exemplary manner in online lessons, as they are expected to do in school. Should students behave inappropriately or cause disruption, they will receive a warning from the teacher. If poor behaviour persists, they will be removed from the live lesson.

Please do not hesitate to contact us, without delay, on data@harrogatehighschool.co.uk or 01423 548800 if your child does not have access to the internet or a laptop/device, they cannot remember their school email address or password, or they have problems accessing the online lessons. We can then support your child to do this successfully.

Free school meals

We will continue to support our families by providing a food parcel for our Years 7-10 students entitled to free school meals, for the week beginning 4th January 2021. Details on how to collect this parcel will follow at a later date.

I'd like to thank you for your ongoing support and wish you and your family a restful and happy Christmas.

Yours faithfully

Charlotte Clarke
Academy Head

